

ZZ

RNR 163

THIRD LEADALL MIDEAST 7 UNDATED

SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI GROMYKO CONFERRED IN THE KREMLIN THURSDAY WITH THE AMBASSADORS OF EGYPT, SYRIA, IRAQ, ALGERIA AND JORDAN, WHO THANKED HIM FOR THE SOVIET UNIONS "ALL-ROUND ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT."

A REPORT BY THE SOVIET NEWS AGENCY TASS SAID GROMYKO HAD REAFFIRMED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT FAVOURED "THE ELIMINATION OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ISRAELI AGGRESSION," BUT GAVE NO CLUE AS TO WHETHER ANY FURTHER SOVIET AID HAD BEEN OFFERED OR SOUGHT.

AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE PERSIAN GULF OIL STATE OF KUWAIT REVEALED THAT PLANS WERE GOING AHEAD FOR A CONFERENCE OF ARAB MINISTERS TO DISCUSS THE ROLE OF ARAB OIL IN THE WAR WITH ISRAEL.

IT SAID THAT THE OIL-PRODUCING STATES OF LIBYA AND BAHRAIN HAD AGREED TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE, SPONSORED BY KUWAIT, WHICH HAS BEEN SEEN IN THE WEST AS A POSSIBLE MOVE TO CUT OFF OIL SUPPLIES TO COUNTRIES REGARDED AS SUPPORTERS OF ISRAEL.

SEVERAL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING SWEDEN AND JAPAN, DISCLOSED THEY WERE CONSIDERING EMERGENCY MEASURES IF OIL SUPPLIES ARE CUT.

REUTERS WRM/MT 1529

19292